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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

November 1, 2005

Walter Dickerson  
Director  
Mobile County Emergency Management Agency  
348 N. McGregor Avenue  
Mobile, AL 36608

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

Pursuant to its authority under Rule XXV(k)(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, Section 101 of S. Res 445 (108<sup>th</sup> Congress), and Section 11(e) of S. Res 50 (109<sup>th</sup> Congress), the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has initiated an investigation into the Nation's preparedness for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina.

We are both very aware of continued efforts by Mobile County to respond to the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. In fact, we have spent time in the affected areas of the Gulf, and have seen first hand the devastation caused by the hurricane and the efforts currently underway to recover. As noted above, we are making the following requests for information and documents as part of the Committee's investigation into the Nation's preparedness for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina. We recognize the demands on your time at this critical juncture of recovery, but it is important, too, that a thorough Congressional investigation be conducted. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency provide the Committee (pursuant to the attached instructions and definitions) the following information and documents:

1. Organizational charts of each department, agency, office or other component of Mobile County, including but not limited to the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency ("MCEMA"), involved in the response to Hurricane Katrina. Identify the individual(s) who hold or held each key position from August 23, 2005 to September 6, 2005;
2. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the county and each department, agency, office or other component of Mobile County in responding to Hurricane Katrina identified in response to item 1. Identify the statutory, regulatory, or other authorities from which those roles and responsibilities derive. To the extent not publicly available, provide copies of such authorities;
3. Any timelines, logs, or records that refer or relate to actions taken in preparation for or response to Hurricane Katrina;

4. All documents generated by MCEMA for the past five years that refer or relate to planning or preparedness for a hurricane or for catastrophic disasters or incidents;
5. The county emergency plan(s) for Mobile County and all documents that refer or relate to such plan(s), including, but not limited to, documents that refer or relate to the Alabama Department of Homeland Security's or the Alabama Emergency Preparedness Management Agency's and/or FEMA's review, consideration, or approval of such plan(s), including:
  - a. All implementation procedures for any county emergency plan;
  - b. All-hazard emergency operations plans and implementing procedures for Mobile County;
  - c. Plans, procedures, resource inventories, and notification lists of county agencies under any emergency operation plan;
  - d. All annexes, appendices, procedures, resource inventories, and notification/recall lists of Mobile County emergency management plans or emergency operations plans;
  - e. Any Continuity of Operations Plans;
  - f. All procedures for public identification of shelters or places of refuge, critical recovery services and centers;
  - g. All procedures for providing information to transient and homeless populations; and
  - h. All plans or procedures regarding notification, transportation, and sheltering of persons with special needs, persons in hospitals, and persons in nursing homes;
6. All documents that refer or relate to evacuation and sheltering plans and procedures for Mobile County and surrounding areas;
7. All documents that refer or relate to mitigation of damage arising from hurricanes and floods in Mobile County for the past five years;
8. All after-action reviews, "hot washes," internal reviews, or other post-disaster analyses conducted by MCEMA in the past five years;
9. Please provide a detailed description of what, if any, role Mobile County plays in evacuations resulting from a hurricane or other natural disaster;
10. Please provide a chronology and detailed description of evacuation orders and actions in connection with Hurricane Katrina;
11. All documents that refer or relate to the matters discussed in your responses to item 9 and 10;
12. To the extent not previously produced, all documents that refer or relate to the evacuation of Mobile County and the surrounding areas in connection with Hurricane Katrina;

13. Please describe all plans for providing security in evacuated areas that were operative on or after August 29, 2005 and provide copies of all documents that refer or relate to such plans. Please describe how these plans were implemented in connection with the response to Hurricane Katrina;

14. To the extent not described in previous responses, please describe in detail all preparations made by the county on or before August 29, 2005 for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina. Be specific as to the time and date of the events and identify all key personnel involved. Provide copies of all documents that refer or relate to such preparations;

15. All documents that refer or relate to communications on or before September 6, 2005 regarding Hurricane Katrina, including, but not limited to, records and logs of such communications;

16. Identify each request for assistance, and the response thereto, in connection with Hurricane Katrina made on or before September 6, 2005 by the county, MCEMA or any other department, agency, office or component of Mobile County, or any representative thereof, to (i) FEMA, the U.S. military or any other federal government entity, (ii) the Alabama Department of Homeland Security or the Alabama Emergency Preparedness Management Agency or any other state government entity, or (iii) any other agency or organization. Provide copies of all documents that refer or relate to such requests or responses;

17. All documents on or before September 6, 2005, constituting, referring or relating to assistance or offers of assistance from federal or state officials or first responders, or from others in the private or nonprofit sectors, regarding Hurricane Katrina;

18. All notes, recordings, videotapes and any other documents from meetings, teleconferences or videoconferences relating to Hurricane Katrina on or prior to September 6, 2005;

19. Identify and provide copies of all authorities, regulations, procedures, policies, and operating guidance related to MCEMA's ability to task, assign missions to, or seek assistance from other entities or organizations, including, but not limited to, any other state or federal agency, in response to an emergency or major disaster. Provide all documents that refer or relate to any such action, tasking, requests or mission assignments by MCEMA in connection with Hurricane Katrina;

20. Identify and provide copies of all requests or grants for emergency preparedness funding and/or assistance over the past five years from Mobile County, the State of Alabama, or the Federal government as well as all annual plans, reports, evaluations received or prepared by the MCEMA concerning these requests; and

21. All plans and communications relating to the protection of and mitigation of damage from hazardous material containers, sites, and facilities located within Mobile County before landfall.

We request you provide the requested information as it becomes available, but not later than November 25, 2005. We thank you and your staff in advance for your cooperation. If you or your staff have any questions concerning this request, please contact James McKay of the Committee's majority staff at 202-224-4751 or Josh Levy of the Committee's minority staff at 202-224-2627.



Susan M. Collins  
Chairman

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman  
Ranking Member